

# THE Shadow

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GARTH ENNIS • AARON CAMPBELL





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FRAN  
CAVIL  
LAF.12

# THE Shadow®

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**AARON CAMPBELL**

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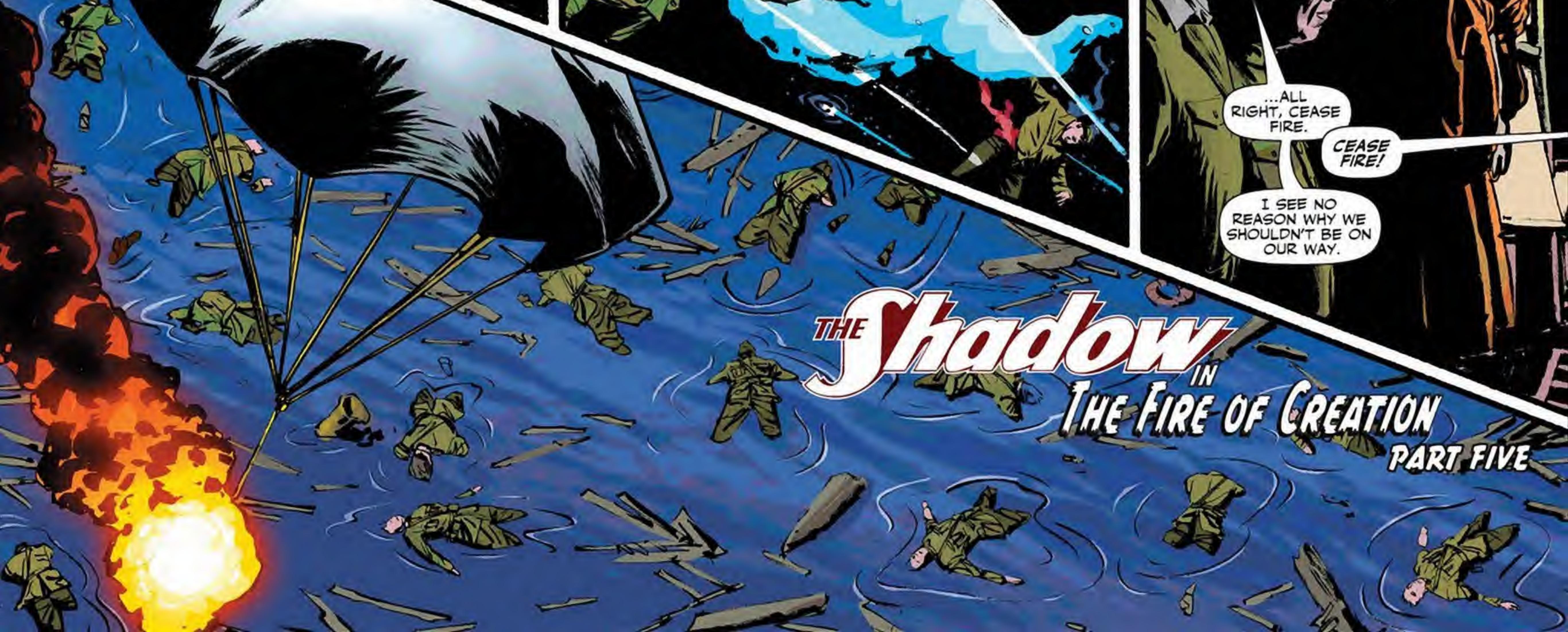
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MAJOR KONDO!  
SURVIVORS IN THE  
WATER, SIR!

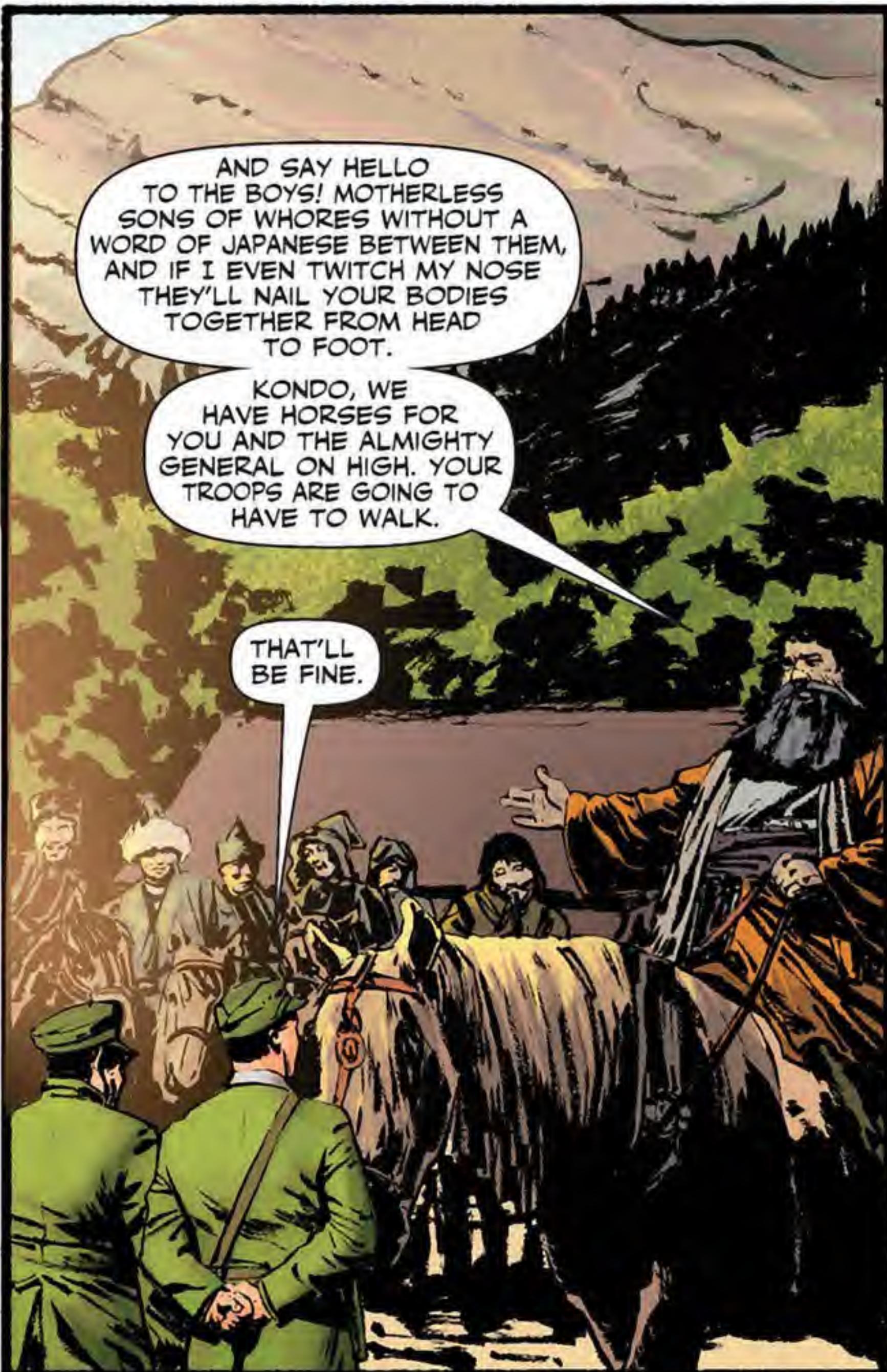
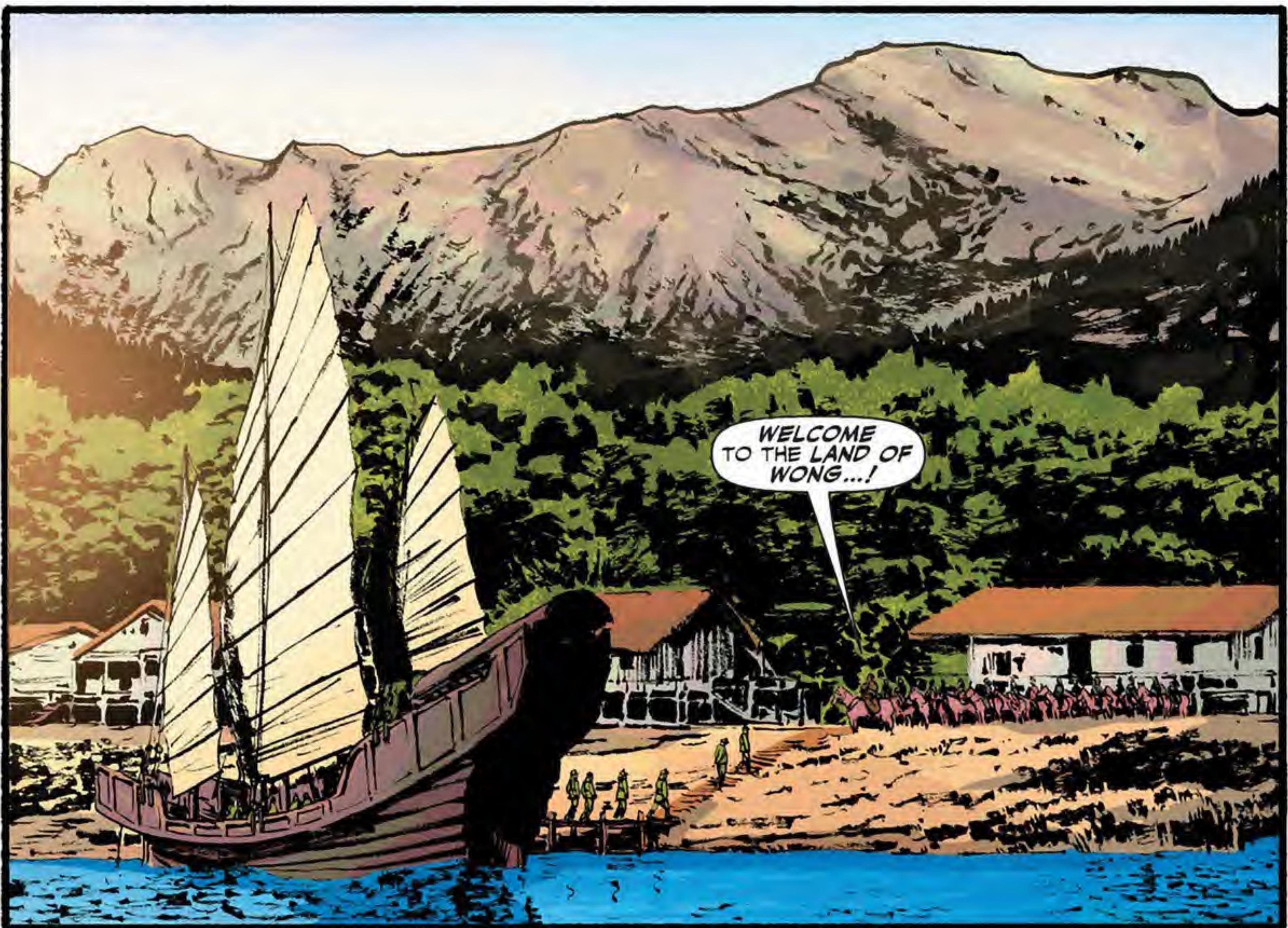
KILL  
THEM.















IT ALL  
HAPPENED SO  
FAST...



THE CAPTAIN REALIZED BEFORE I DID,  
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON...  
HE WAS GIVING ORDERS, AND I WAS  
STILL...STILL...

IT WAS SO FAST.  
BEWILDERING. WE DIDN'T  
STAND A CHANCE.

DID YOU  
EXPECT TO BE  
GIVEN ONE?



WELL NO...  
I MEAN...  
THIS WHOLE  
THING, IT HASN'T  
BEEN A BIT LIKE WHAT  
I EXPECTED. I THOUGHT  
IT'D BE MORE OF AN  
ADVENTURE,  
REALLY.



YOU KNOW.  
MORE...  
RIP-ROARING.









BUUHHHHHHHH

SHIT!

WHO IS  
IT OUT THERE?  
WHO IS IT?

YOU'RE MAKING  
A MISTAKE, YOU CHINESE  
VERMIN! WE ARE SOLDIERS OF  
IMPERIAL JAPAN, WE ARE  
YOUR MASTERS!

SHOW  
YOURSELVES!  
DO IT NOW OR  
THERE'LL BE HELL  
TO PAY!

SHOW  
YOURSELVES!!





D'YOU  
WANT YOUR  
PEASANTS BACK  
WHEN WE REACH  
SHANGHAI?

NO,  
FEEL FREE  
TO SHOOT  
THEM.

THEY-  
GROMFF

THEY'RE NO  
USE TO ME, THE MINING'S  
DONE. LET THEM CARRY YOUR  
FUNNY ROCKS FOR YOU AND  
THEN YOU CAN HAVE SOME  
TARGET PRACTICE.

YOU'LL BE  
REMEMBERED AS  
A KIND AND GRACIOUS  
KING, WONG.  
ALWAYS.

I'M NOT SURE I APPROVE OF  
THE MEN FRATERNIZING WITH  
THESE...PEOPLE...

HA!!

THEY'VE DONE  
WELL, GENERAL. THEY  
DESERVE TO LET THEIR  
HAIR DOWN A LITTLE.

YES, IT'S BEEN A GOOD SEEING YOU AGAIN, KONDO. HIGHLY PROFITABLE. AND WE EVEN MANAGED NOT TO SLIT EACH OTHER'S THROATS.

WELL, I'LL DRINK TO THAT...

HMMPH!



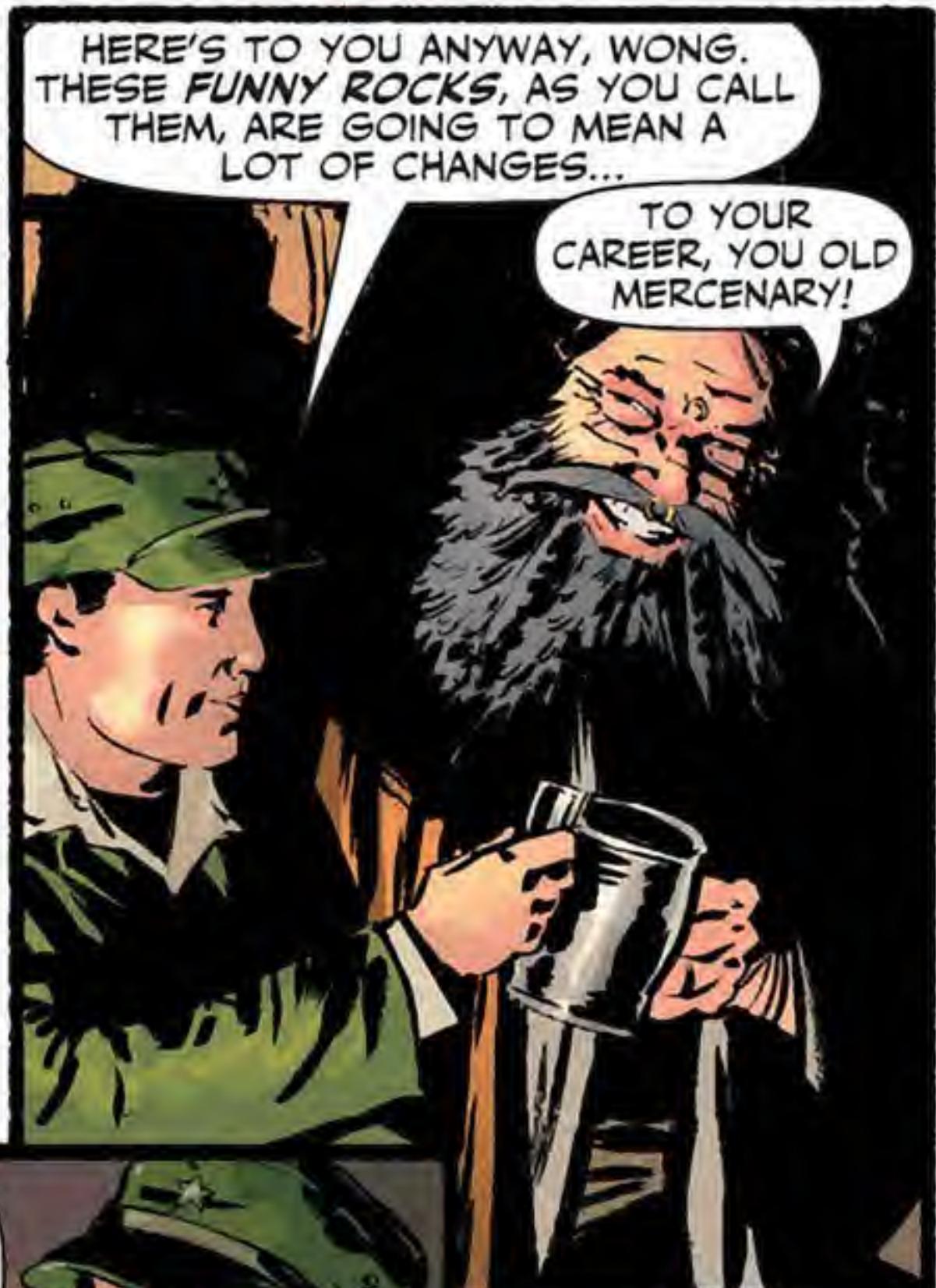
OH, COME ON, MIGHTY SIR GENERAL OF ALL HE SURVEYS! HAVE A DRINK WITH WONG!

YOU NEVER KNOW, GENERAL. IT MIGHT BE YOUR LAST CHANCE.

LET'S HOPE SO...

HERE'S TO YOU ANYWAY, WONG. THESE FUNNY ROCKS, AS YOU CALL THEM, ARE GOING TO MEAN A LOT OF CHANGES...

TO YOUR CAREER, YOU OLD MERCENARY!



I WOULDN'T WORRY, GENERAL.

IT'S ROUGH COUNTRY UP HERE, THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF THINGS THAT MIGHT DELAY THEM...





WHO'S THAT IN THERE?



YOU AFTER WONG'S GOLD?  
YOU THINK YOU CAN STEAL IT AWAY?  
STUPIDEST  
MISTAKE OF YOUR  
LIFE, YOU-



ALLARD

AN OLD NAME.





MORE  
BACKSTABBING.  
MORE DECEIT.  
IT SICKENS  
ME.

WHATEVER  
GETS THE JOB DONE,  
GENERAL.

WHAT DID  
THEY TEACH YOU,  
ALLARD?

WHOEVER  
IT WAS. WHEREVER  
THEY TOOK YOU.

WHAT THE  
HELL DID THEY  
MAKE YOU  
INTO?

KONDO, IS  
THERE ANYTHING  
ELSE YOU  
HAVEN'T TOLD ME  
ABOUT--?

YOU THINK  
YOU'RE D

THEY TAUGHT  
ME TO RECOGNIZE  
EVIL IN THE HEARTS  
OF MEN BY LOOKING  
IN MY OWN.

THEY  
MADE ME INTO  
DEATH ITSELF.

FINISH  
THIS.







WORTHLESS!  
ALL OF IT!  
WORTHLESS!

KONDO,  
WHAT THE HELL IS  
THE MATTER WITH  
YOU--?



I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THE MATTER IS,  
GENERAL: THIS IS CRAP. IT'S IRON PYRITE  
OR SOMETHING, IT'S ABOUT AS MUCH USE  
FOR BUILDING SECRET WEAPONS AS  
THE HOLE IN THE MIDDLE OF  
MY ARSE.

WHAT...?

THAT BASTARD  
WONG, THAT SON OF A  
BITCH, I KNEW IT WAS  
TOO GOOD TO  
BE TRUE--!



IT HIT ME JUST NOW. THAT'S  
WHY I TESTED THE ROCKS IN  
OUR SHIPMENT, NOT  
WONG'S SAMPLE.

HE MUST HAVE  
HAD JUST ENOUGH  
OF THE REAL THING TO  
CONVINCE US. I DON'T KNOW  
WHERE HE FOUND IT, BUT HE'S  
HARDLY GOING TO BE  
TELLING US NOW.

BUT-  
BUT-



BUT  
THAT MEANS  
WE'VE-  
FAILED....!

AFRAID SO. WE'RE RIGHT BACK TO SQUARE ONE, I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING TO START LOOKING NOW.

I AM TRULY SORRY, GENERAL. I PULLED EVERY DIRTY TRICK I COULD THINK OF- I KNEW IT UPSET YOU, BUT I THOUGHT THE ENDS JUSTIFIED THE MEANS.

BUT I FAILED YOU.



I PROMISED HIM-  
SWORE TO HIM--!





### FROM THE TALES OF CINDERELLA, SLEEPING BEAUTY, THE LITTLE MERMAID, & SNOW WHITE COMES DAMSELS!

### THERE IS NO HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

#### AN INTERVIEW WITH DAMSELS WRITERS LEAH MOORE AND JOHN REPPION

What's the general premise of Damsels?

Damsels is a comic fantasy series set in a place where mythology, folklore and fairy tales are all mixed in together, and where magic is very, very real. At the beginning of the story the three great kingdoms of Perrault on the Western coast, Caumont in the eastern mountains, and Villeneuve in the central forests are about to enter into an historic and significant alliance. Into the middle of this momentous union stumbles curious a tattooed wanderer with something not quite right about her, and events begin to take an unexpected turn.

Tell me about each fairy tale heroine and what role does each of them play in the miniseries.

Well... that's a \*little\* bit tricky without being too spoilery. However, it's not giving too much away to say that Perrault's king Aurore once waked his queen, Talia, from a hundred year slumber, and that there was a tall building involved when Caumont's King Persine met his future wife, Rapunzel. Beyond that I think we should keep things as a surprise for now.

Have you always been a fan of fairy tales? What was the first one that was told to you?

Absolutely! Fairy tales, folk tales, ghost stories... all the good stuff! I honestly don't know what the first fairy tale I was ever told would have been although, for some reason, I'm leaning towards either The Three Little Pigs, or the Billy Goats Gruff. I was lucky enough to be read to a lot when I was young, so the characters of J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, and Enid Blyton were all mixed in with the traditional Grimm and Anderson ones in my own childhood pantheon.

How true are these characters to their source material? Did you have to do a lot of research for the book?

Ah, we love research. We've gone right back to the original Grimm fairy tales (and earlier in some cases) for much of our source material and we were both genuinely surprised at some of the strange details, and even entire stories, that seem to have been ignored or overlooked for so long by so many. That's not to say we're trying to create any kind of groundbreaking academic, historic work with Damsels – this is a great big, bouncy, fun, fairy tale, fantasy world that we're exploring – but we always like to make sure we're going back to the source before we start messing about with stuff.

Why will fans of fairy tales want to pick up this book?

Hopefully because they want to read something done by fans of the genre written by fans of the genre – something that plays with familiar characters and stories but twists them round into something new and fun and exciting.

Tell me about your first issue. What should people expect in Damsels #1?

It's a really fun first issue. We pretty much hit the ground running with the arrival of our mysterious tattooed drifter, named Rapa, in the kingdom of Caumont just as the king and queen of Perrault are arriving to cement the alliance of the two territories. There are fairies, monsters, there's espionage, intrigue... everything we could cram in there, we did.

The artist for Damsels is Aneke and it is quite striking. Why do you think she is such a good fit for the book?

When we saw Aneke's sample pieces for the project we knew straight away that she was the artist for us. Her style is just perfect for the book, blending serious and believable characters with fun, almost cartoony, bouncy action without there being any disparity. Every time we get new pages through we're just amazed at how perfectly she's realised and fleshed out the world of Damsels.

What's coming up down the line in the rest of the Damsels comic book series? Would you both come back to tell more stories about these characters in the future?

Again, there's so much I'd love to say about what's coming up but I \*really\* don't want to spoil anything, suffice it to say that there will be plenty of characters and names from folk/fairy tales cropping up – some familiar, some not so much, and some in rather unexpected ways.

We'd love to write more stories set in the world of Damsels – the possibilities are pretty much limitless. We're already thinking about what we'd like to do next!



#### ENJOY THE FOLLOWING PREVIEW OF DAMSELS #1

Written by Leah Moore & John Reppion

Art by Aneke

Colors by Ivan Nunes

Letters by Simon Bowland

Covers by J. Scott Campbell & Sean Chen

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